

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (currently amended): A food slicing apparatus, comprising:

- a) an enclosure to support therein food to be sliced, the enclosure having an access opening;
- b) a guide for guiding a blade to slice food supported within the enclosure;
- c) a stop to at least partially obstruct the guide; ~~and~~
- d) a cover for the access opening, the cover moveable relative to the enclosure from an open position to a closed position[.]; and
- e) a linkage assembly to connect the cover connected to at least one of the guide and the stop, the linkage assembly to displace the guide and the stop relative to one another as the cover moves relative to the enclosure from the open position to the closed position, so that when the cover is in an open position the stop at least partially obstructs the guide.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A food slicing apparatus according to claim[[s]] 1-~~or~~-2, wherein the stop is presented near at least one end of the guide.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A food slicing apparatus according to claim[[s]] 1-~~or~~-2, wherein the stop is at least two stops presented near each end of the guide.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A food slicing apparatus according to claim[[s]] 3-~~or~~4, wherein the stop is spaced from an inside wall of the enclosure a sufficient extent to retain therebetween the blade.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A food slicing apparatus according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 5~~ 2, ~~further comprising a wherein the~~ linkage assembly [[to]] connects the stop to the cover.

Claim 7 (original): A food slicing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the linkage assembly comprises a slotted arm.

Claim 8 (original): A food slicing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the linkage assembly comprises a curved slotted arm having one end connected to the cover, and the stop presenting a pin for sliding fit within the curved slotted portion of the curved slotted arm.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A food slicing apparatus according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 8~~ 2, wherein the guide guides the blade substantially in a plane to slice food supported within the enclosure.

Claim 10 (original): A food slicing apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising a contact surface to engage the blade, the contact surface connected to the cover and moveable relative to the guide, so that as the cover is displaced to an open position the contact surface is displaced to at least partially cross the plane of the guide.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A food slicing apparatus according to claim ~~[[10]]~~ 9, further comprising a contact surface to engage the blade, and wherein the cover is connected to at least one of the contact surface and the guide to displace the contact surface and the guide relative to one another, so that as the cover is displaced to an

open position the contact surface is displaced to at least partially cross the plane of the guide.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A food slicing apparatus according to claim[[s]] ~~10 or~~ 11, wherein the contact surface is connected to the stop.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A food slicing apparatus according to claim[[s]] ~~10 or~~ 11, wherein the stop is at least two stops presented near each end of the guide, and the contact surface is connected to each stop and extends therebetween.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A food slicing apparatus according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] ~~10 to 13~~ 11, wherein the contact surface is part of a support with the enclosure to support food to be sliced.

Claim 15 (original): A food slicing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the support is in the form of a cradle and the contact surface forms the sides thereof.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A food slicing apparatus according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] ~~1 to 15~~ 2, further comprising an abutting surface presented within the enclosure and moveable relative thereto to engage at least one side of food supported within the enclosure so that the food can be sliced.

Claim 17 (original): A food slicing apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising an actuator presented outside of the enclosure and connected to the abutting surface to displace the abutting surface relative to the enclosure.

Claim 18 (original): A food slicing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the actuator is biased to normally present the abutting surface away from where food is supported within the enclosure.

Claim 19 (original): A food slicing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the actuator is a compressible handle.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A food slicing apparatus according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 16 to 19~~, wherein the abutting surface and the actuator are provided by the cover.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A food slicing apparatus according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 20~~ 2, wherein one end of the blade extends outwardly of the enclosure along one side of the guide.

Claim 22 (original): A food slicing apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the end of the blade that extends outwardly of the enclosure is provided with a handle.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A food slicing apparatus according to claim[[s]] ~~21 or 22~~, wherein the other end of the blade is provided with a blade stop that is slideable within a channel provided by the enclosure along the other side of the guide.

Claim 24 (canceled)

Claim 25 (currently amended): A food slicing apparatus, comprising:

a) an enclosure to support food therein to be sliced, the enclosure having an access opening;

b) a guide for guiding a blade substantially in a plane to slice food supported within the enclosure;

c) a contact surface to engage the blade; ~~and~~

d) a cover for the access opening, the cover moveable relative to the enclosure from an open position to a closed position[.,,]; and

e) a linkage assembly to connect the cover ~~connected to~~ at least one of the contact surface and the guide, the linkage assembly to displace the contact surface and

the guide relative to one another as the cover moves relative to the enclosure from the open position to the closed position, so that as the cover is moved to the open position the contact surface is at least partially across the plane of the guide, ~~so that as the cover is displaced to an open position the contact surface is displaced to at least partially cross the plane of the guide.~~

Claim 26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (new): A food slicing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the linkage assembly connects the contact surface to the cover.

Claim 28 (new): A food slicing apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the linkage assembly comprises a curved slotted arm having one end connected to the cover, and the contact surface presenting a pin for sliding fit within the curved slotted portion of the curved slotted arm.

Claim 29 (new): A food slicing apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the contact surface is part of a support with the enclosure to support food to be sliced.

Claim 30 (new): A food slicing apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the support is in the form of a cradle and the contact surface forms the sides thereof.